

Fort Washington

13551 Fort Washington Road

Fort Washington, Maryland

Directions may be found [here](#) .



The picturesque [Fort Washington](#) sits on high ground overlooking the Potomac River. The powerful fort that once guarded the water approach to our Nation's Capital, is one of the few U.S. seacoast fortifications still in its original form.

The first Fort Washington was completed in 1809 and guarded the Nation's Capital until it was destroyed by its own garrison in 1814. A new fort was completed on October 2, 1824. Extensive remodeling was performed in the 1840s and the first guns were mounted in 1846. Except for a few guns at the Washington Arsenal, Fort Washington was the only defense for the Nation's Capital until the Civil War when a circle of temporary forts was built around the city.

Prior to World War I, Fort Washington was downgraded to harbor defense and the large guns removed. During the war the post was used as a staging area for troops being sent to France. After the war the 3rd Battalion 12th Infantry moved in and became the ceremonial unit for the Military District of Washington until the post was abandoned in 1939.

During World II, Fort Washington became the home of the Adjutant General's School. After the war the Veterans Administration managed the post hospital and other government agencies occupied some of the buildings. In 1946 Fort Washington was returned to the Department of Interior.

Over 200 years of Army presence has left the park with a diverse group of military structures and a rich history of service to our country and the Nation's Capital. The 341 acre park offers an assortment of recreational opportunities with picnic areas and hiking and biking trails. Living History programs are conducted throughout the summer months. The Visitors Center displays exhibits with information and artifacts describing the history of the Fort and an audio-visual program explores the park's history.

Times of Operation

Fort Washington and the park are open all year, except for Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. The park opens at 8:00 a.m. and closes at dark. Fort Washington and the Visitor Center hours are seasonal, April through September 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and October to April 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Check the [National Park Service](#) website for up-to-date seasonal dates and times.

Due to staffing, the Visitor Center may be closed periodically without notice. Additionally, the Visitor Center is closed daily between the hours of 12 Noon to 2:00 p.m.

There is a \$5.00 per vehicle entrance fee charged. Individual passes are \$3.00 and apply to visitors entering the park on foot, horseback, bicycle, and motorcycle. All passes are also valid at any other National Park for a specified period, depending on the type of pass purchased. For more information on fees and annual passes, visit the [NPS Fees](#) page.

Fort Washington Links

- [Fort Washington NPS Website](#)
- [Fort Washington NPS In-Depth Website](#)
- [NPS Fees](#)

[Return to Tours and Tickets](#)

